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with Michael Collins Piper

Will America Be Dragged Into More Wars for Israel?

By Michael Collins Piper

The reverberations from the ugly and devastating U.S. invasion of Iraq continue to echo around the globe. As time passes, the truth about why the United States waged war against Iraq is becoming all the more obvious: it was all about U.S. favoritism toward Israel.

A damning indictment of the U.S. "special relationship" with Israel and how it led to the invasion of Iraq has now come in a new book by veteran international correspondent John Cooley entitled ***An Alliance Against Babylon: The U.S., Israel, and Iraq*** (Pluto Press, 2005). Cooley, formerly a correspondent for ABC News and ***The Christian Science Monitor***, points out that most contemporary coverage of the two wars the United States has engaged in against Iraq "ignore an important factor," that being "the role played by Israel, and the relationships, antagonistic and otherwise, of the Jewish people with the people and states of former Mesopotamia, now Iraq, from Old Testament Bible times until now."

Although many critics of the war loudly proclaim that the war is "about oil," Cooley's cogently argued historical work makes it clear that the war was really — as former Sen. Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.) said, shortly before his retirement — about "President Bush's policy to secure Israel."

PULLS NO PUNCHES

Cooley's overview of Israel's terror war against the British occupation forces in Palestine in the late 1940s pulls no punches. He points out that when Jewish underground forces blew up the King David Hotel in Jerusalem on June 22, 1946, the Jewish terrorists were "disguised as Arabs," a tactic that has long been used by Israel in various terrorist endeavors.

In the massacre at the King David — which was the British military headquarters — Begin's team left 90 people dead, including 15 Jews, demonstrating that, contrary to what many misinformed people believe, the Israelis are willing to sacrifice their own for what might they perceive as "the greater good."

Regarding Iraq itself, while Cooley is no defender of Saddam Hussein, he makes it clear that despite the fact that there was domestic opposition to Saddam — largely the Kurdish minority, Shia Muslim clergy and communists — "all of these groups had been weakened by [the] emergence of the growingly prosperous and politically docile middle class that Saddam had taken pains to create."

In other words, while Saddam was indeed killing Islamic religious hard-liners — the same people that President George Bush proudly declared his intention to kill anywhere he found them — Saddam was setting in place a strong country with a thriving middle class.

It is thus no wonder that prior to the first American attack on Iraq — in 2001 — followed by crippling sanctions imposed on the country at the insistence of the United States, both the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were preparing to declare Iraq a "First World nation."

Cooley also examines the evidence that has already been outlined by Christopher Bollyn in ***American Free Press***, namely "allegations about Israeli involvement" in the infamous Abu Ghraib torture scandal, which, as Cooley notes, were "repeated by Brig. Gen. Janice Karpinski, the U.S. officer in charge of Abu Ghraib."

In summarizing the consequences of the bloody American venture in Iraq — which shows no sign of getting any better — Cooley notes that the destruction of Iraq's armed forces, a "cherished objective" of Israel, had been accomplished "largely without loss of either Israeli blood or treasure." Cooley says that there will never be peace in the Middle East, as he first asserted in the 1960s and repeats today, "there is a fair settlement between Israel and the Palestinian Arabs."

On May 11, the New York-based ***Forward***, a leading Jewish community newspaper, reported that Barry Jacobs of the Washington office of the American Jewish Committee said that he believes there are high-ranking officials inside the U.S. intelligence community who are hostile to Israel and are waging war against pro-Israel lobbyists and their neo-conservative allies in the inner circles of the Bush administration.

Citing the ongoing FBI investigation of possible espionage by officials of AIPAC, the leading pro-Israel lobby group, ***Forward*** reported that Jacobs believes, in ***Forward's*** summary, that "the notion that American Jews and Pentagon neo-conservatives conspired to push the United States into war against Iraq, and possibly also against Iran, is pervasive in Washington's intelligence community."

Meanwhile, more and more voices, in high places, are publicly raising questions about the validity of Israel's foundation as the state that exists today. To the distress of many, a respected British-based Jewish academic, Prof. Jacqueline Rose, issued a new book, ***The Question of Zion***, published by the distinguished Princeton University Press, saying that Zionism as a historical experiment has failed and that Zionism is, as she puts it, "in danger of destroying itself."

Critics said that Rose has "demonized" Israel, but the problem for supporters of Israel is that many people share her concerns.

NEW BOOK

Now with the advent of Cooley's new book regarding the U.S. and Israel vis-à-vis Iraq, what is so remarkable is that Cooley's thesis mirrors — from both a historical standpoint and from a current events standard — a thesis regarding Israel's central positioning in U.S. policy toward Iran outlined in 1991 in the book Iran, Israel and the United States by a leading American conservative academic, Dr. Henry Paolucci.

In addition, as far back as June 14, 1994, in a story beginning on page one, ***The Washington Post*** let the cat out of the bag when it declared, in a headline on the inner "jump" page, that "CIA sees nuclear weapons program in North Korea as a threat to Israel," reporting that — effectively unbeknownst to most Americans — the real concern about North Korea's nuclear aims is actually founded on the security interests not of the United States, but those of Israel.

So the "theory" that Israel is a cause of America's plight in the world today is not just limited to the problem of Iraq. It goes much, much further.

As the Bush administration and its allies in Israel continue to raise the question of whether Iran is engaged in nuclear weapons development, and whether North Korea's nuclear intentions are dangerous, Americans would do well to ponder the simple questions: "Is it worth it? Are Israel's interests really those of America — and vice versa?"

A journalist specializing in media critique, Michael Collins Piper is the author of ***Final Judgment***, the controversial "underground bestseller" documenting the collaboration of Israeli intelligence in the assassination of John F. Kennedy. He is also the author of ***The High Priests of War***, ***The New Jerusalem***, ***The Judas Goats***, and ***Dirty Secrets***, all available from America First Books and First Amendment Books. He has lectured on suppressed topics in places as diverse as Malaysia, Japan, Canada, Russia and Abu Dhabi.

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